THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 10th March 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Transfer of Fort Cochin to Travancore-Cochin State.

* 9 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal to hand over Fort Cochin to Travancore-Cochin State;

(*b*) whether the Madras Government were consulted in the matter;

(*c*) if so, what was the reply given by the Madras Government; and

(*d*) whether the opinion of the people of Fort Cochin or Malabar was ascertained before the reply of this Government was given?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) This Government advised against the proposal to transfer Fort Cochin to Travancore-Cochin State.

"(*d*) Official reports showed that the majority of the population were against the proposed transfer. The Fort Cochin Municipal Council also passed a resolution to that effect. Representations were also received from numerous individuals and organizations of Fort Cochin opposing any such proposed transfer."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Will the Government give an assurance that no irrevocable commitments in respect of this matter will be made by Government without consulting this House and those affected by such a decision? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No commitment has been made so far, Sir. I do not think any commitment will be made without giving opportunities to all concerned."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know, Sir, what the income of the Cochin port is and whether the cost of maintenance of the port is met out of the income? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The main question relates to transfer. The hon. Member may put a separate question."

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Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Fort authorities have made any representations in the matter? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" It has already been answered."

Recognition of Hospital Workers' Unions.

* 10 *Q.*—Sri M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer given by him to a supplementary question arising out of question No. 119 on 24th November 1952 whether Government Memorandum No. 20697-H/51-4, Health, dated 20th June 1951, has been cancelled or is still in force?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Hospital Workers' Unions of this State have not so far been recognized as such by the Government. The question of recognition is pending the enactment of the Labour Relations Bill by the Government of India. Representations from these unions are dealt with without going into the question of recognition. The Memorandum referred to above ceased to be in force from 7th September 1951 and was formally cancelled on 4th March 1952."

Sri M. VEERABHADRAM :—" 4-3-1952 వ తారీకున పాస్ చేసినటువంటి ఉత్తరువు తరువాత ఇప్పుడుకూడ ఈ Memorandum ప్రకారంగా అధికారులు చర్య తీసుకొనుటకు ప్రయత్నిస్తున్నారనే విషయము ప్రభుత్వమునకేమైనా తెలుసునా? "

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, do the Government know that even after the cancellation of the earlier order on 4th March 1952, the officials are acting under the original order which definitely asked the officials not to recognize the trade unions and take action against those people who are members of the trade unions? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir. No action is being taken."

Sri D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" ఇప్పుడు మద్రాసు స్టేటులో ఈలాంటి unions ఎన్ని ఉన్నాయో ప్రభుత్వము చెప్పగలరా? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There are six unions, Sir."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that the question of recognition of trade-unions of hospital workers will be dealt with only after the Labour Relations Bill has been enacted. Do the Government know that there is a Trade Disputes Act under which a number of unions of non-Government servants are recognized by employers and do the Government think that they stand on a different footing, in respect of recognition of the Government employees' unions? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There are several unions of hospital workers and Government must have something to go by. So they are awaiting the passing of the Labour Relations Bill."